

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN
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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, OVIP (BUERGENTHAL, THOMAS)

SUBJECT: VIP VISIT (PROFESSOR THOMAS BUERGENTHAL)

1. DR. THOMAS BUERGENTHAL, FULBRIGHT AND JAWORSKI
PROFESSOR OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, WHO IS
ALSO MEMBER OF U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO AND
CHAIRMAN OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, WILL BE VISITING
BONN ON MAY 18, 1978, TO RECEIVE THE HUMANITAS-RING
AWARD TO BE BESTOWED UPON HIM BY THE WEST-OST KALTURWERK.

2. THE AWARD IS BASED ON DR. BUERGENTHAL'S SCHOLARLY
CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL
LAW FIELDS AS THESE RELATE TO HIS WARTIME EXPERIENCE IN
NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS. THE LATTER HAVE BEEN
DESCRIBED IN NUMEROUS BOOKS AND ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN
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U.S., FRG, UK AND THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

3. DR. BUERGENTHAL IS THE FIRST AMERICAN TO RECEIVE THE
AWARD AND ONLY THE FOURTH RECIPIENT OF THE PRIZE, WHICH
WAS CONFERRED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 1954. THE OTHER
THREE WERE GERMAN POET, WILDHELM VON SCHOLTZ (1954;
PROFESSOR PAUL LUCHTEUBERG, MINISTER OF CULTURE OF

NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN AND MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG (1972);
AND MAX TAU, FAMOUS GERMAN-NORWEGIAN WRITER AND EDITOR

(1974). THE HONOREES SHARE A COMMITMENT TO THE PROMOTION
OF HUMANITARIAN IDEALS IRRESPECTIVE OF NATIONAL BOUND-
ARIES.

4. THE AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR HANNS-JOACHIM
RUSTOW OF THE HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY, WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT
OF THE WEST-OST KULTURWERK. THE C"REMONY IS EXPECTED TO
ATTRACT, AMONG OTHERS, LEADING GERMAN INTERNATIONAL
LAWYERS. THE VARIOUS SPEECHES THAT WILL BE GIVEN ON
THAT OCCASION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A BOOK.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EXTENDING ALL APPROPRIATE
COURTESY TO DR. BUERGENTHAL AND HAVE SOMEONE TO ATTEND
CEREMONY. EMBASSY (PAO) MAY ALSO CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF
WRITING UP THE EVENT AND ISSUING APPROPRIATE RELEASE.

6. FOLLOWING IS ADDITIONAL BIO INFORMATION ON DR.
BUERGENTHAL:

MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARDS OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW; REVUE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME (STRAS-
BOURG); AND GRUNDRICHTE (STRASBOURG/KEHL); AND CAHIERS
DE DROIT EUROPEEN (BRUSSELS). HE IS AN OFFICER OF THE
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U.S. INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (N.Y.), SERVES ON THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS (STRASBOURG), AND IS A MEMBER OF THE U.S.
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO. HAS WRITTEN EXTENSIVELY
ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS TOPICS. AMONG HIS
BOOKS ARE "INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS", 1973
(WITH L.B. SOHN); "BASIC DOCUMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS", 1973 (WITH L.B. SOHN); AND
"LAW-MAKING IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANI-
ZATION, 1969. PROFESSOR BUERGENTHAL IS A MEMBER OF THE
NEW YORK BAR AND HOLDS THE FOLLOWING DEGREES: B.A. (1957)
BETHANY COLLEGE (WEST VIRGINIA); J.D. (1960) NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL; LL.M (1961) AND S.J.D. (1968)
HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. VANCE

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